

THE ARKANSAS POST GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL, GILLETT, ARKANSAS
Winter 2000



Also available at www.nps.gov/planning/arpo/news/

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to share this *General Management Plan* newsletter with you and ask for your continued help in planning the future of Arkansas Post National Memorial. As a reminder, general management plans provide guidance for overall management of each national park system area. This process requires that we develop a range of possible alternative future conditions and management strategies for the memorial. The plan will consider the purpose and significance of the memorial in determining resource preservation, visitor uses, development needs, and information/education issues for the next 15 to 20 years.

This newsletter is the first opportunity for you to respond to different preliminary alternatives. Your comments and suggestions will help in developing a preferred alternative, which will be published in a *Draft General Management Plan* that will be made available for a formal review and comment period.

Your participation is important to us, and we urge your continued involvement in this planning effort.

Edward E. Wood Jr.

Superintendent
Arkansas Post National Memorial
1741 Old Post Road
Gillett, Arkansas 72055
arpo_superintendent@nps.gov



BACKGROUND TO THE ALTERNATIVES

All alternatives for this memorial have been developed using some fundamental building blocks, which are the purpose of the memorial, the significance of the memorial, and the primary interpretive themes. (“Interpretation” is the National Park Service’s word for offering visitors information about the site so that they can understand why park/memorial/monument was set aside by Congress; the primary interpretive themes define information that every visitor should know about the area.) The memorial’s legislation, public comments, NPS policy, legal requirements, and resource values were analyzed in the development of the following critical elements.

Draft Purpose Statements

The following statements describe the primary reasons for which the memorial was created. They influence management priorities and are central to decisions about how the memorial should be developed and managed.

The purposes developed for Arkansas Post National Memorial to date are as follows:

- Preserve the evidence of early contact and continued interaction among the French, Spanish, and British and the American Indians and U.S. settlers in the lower Mississippi River Valley for scientific study, public appreciation and benefit, and access by traditionally associated groups.
- Interpret and commemorate the peoples and cultures that inhabited the successive Arkansas Posts and American Indian communities.
- Interpret how geography and natural resources combined with the forces of global economy, politics, and society at Arkansas Post to create a rich heritage and lasting living legacy for the nation.
- Provide for the enjoyment and historical use of the memorial while preserving and protecting the memorial’s cultural and natural resources.

Draft Significance Statements

Arkansas Post National Memorial is significant because of the following:

- Arkansas Post was the first permanent European settlement in the lower Mississippi River Valley.
- Arkansas Post represents in a tangible way the struggle by European powers for dominance in the lower Mississippi River Valley.
- Arkansas Post reflects one of several actions by the United States to establish its authority over the Louisiana Purchase.
- The Civil War battle at Arkansas Post helped to reestablish the authority of the United States government in Arkansas.
- Arkansas Post served as a major temporary interment point along the water route of the Trail of Tears.
- The Osotouy site represents the spiritual center of the Quapaw tribal homeland and the culture of these American Indians as it existed in the late 17th century.
- The Osotouy site represents an archeological area consisting of Woodland, Mississippian, Quapaw, and European cultural resources that have retained a high degree of integrity over a long period of time. As high ground west of the Mississippi River, the site was particularly favored as a habitation site.

Draft Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to a memorial’s purpose, identity, and visitor experience. Primary themes provide the framework for the memorial’s interpretation and educational programs, influence the desired visitor experience, and provide direction for planners and people who design the memorial’s exhibits, publications, and audiovisual programs. Below are the draft primary themes, with more detailed subthemes to be added during subsequent interpretive planning.

Culture

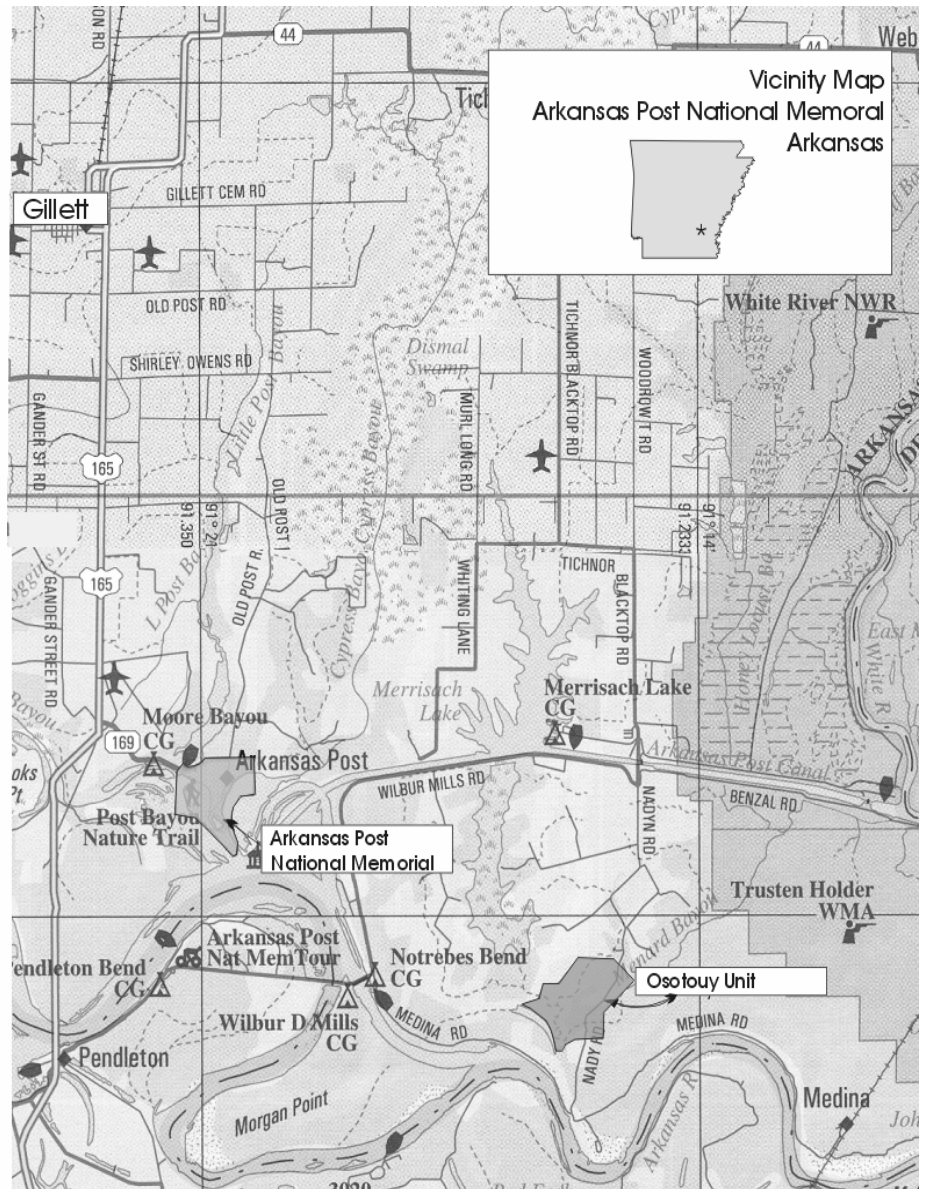
- The archeological resources in the Arkansas Post area provide a tangible link to wave after wave of cultures of past centuries.
- European immigration into the homeland of the Quapaw Indians served as a catalyst for a blending of cultures.
- The lower Mississippi River Valley represented an opportunity to start a new life to many different cultures, including American Indians, Europeans, and U. S. settlers.
- The Civil War battle at Arkansas Post reflected the national government's determination to regain control of Arkansas by using overwhelming force and the superior technology of its weapons.
- The sequence of history at Arkansas Post represents, in a tangible way, the clash of European powers to dominate the lower Mississippi River Valley. The intent of the United States to establish its authority over the Arkansas Territory is reflected in the designation of Arkansas Post as the first territorial capital.

Natural Resources

- For centuries the abundance of natural resources at the confluence of the Mississippi, Arkansas, and White Rivers has attracted a variety of cultures.
- Humans have influenced natural processes in the Arkansas Post region, resulting in drastic ecological changes including alterations in species' characteristics and numbers.

People and History

- The interaction among the American Indians, French, Spanish, British, and Americans in the lower Mississippi River Valley has left its mark in the present culture and economy of the Arkansas Post region.
- Historical events at Arkansas Post National Memorial vividly illustrate the changing relationships among the Europeans, U. S. settlers, and American Indians from the lower Mississippi River Valley.



HOW THE PLANNING PROCESS PROGRESSES

Gathering Information and Getting Ready

Before alternatives for managing the memorial were developed, information on the memorial's resources, visitor use, and visitor preferences was gathered and analyzed. Information was solicited about the issues and the scope of the project from the public and the memorial staff through newsletters, meetings, and personal contacts.

Three decision points were identified during the scoping process. These points are the questions that each alternative needed to answer. They are as follows:

- What level of development can be allowed while still preserving the memorial's cultural and natural resources unimpaired for future generations?
- What visitor use, including local recreational use, can be accommodated while preserving the integrity of the memorial's cultural and natural resources yet leave these resources available for future scientific study?
- What is the best way to balance the need to protect and interpret those resources associated with the memorial's mission beyond the memorial's boundaries, and not neglect the significant resources within authorized boundaries?

The Alternative Concepts

These questions and the information gathered aided in the development of three preliminary *concepts* (action alternatives B, C, and D) for managing the memorial for the next 15 to 20 years. (Alternative A, a "no-action" alternative, describes a continuation of existing conditions and serves as a basis for comparing the other alternatives.) The concepts were developed from a desire to provide a variety of visitor experiences and levels of resource protection. All the action alternative concepts were intended to support the memorial's purpose and significance, address issues, avoid unacceptable resource impacts, respond to public wishes and concerns, and meet the memorial's long-term goals.

Management Prescriptions

After the action alternative concepts for future memorial conditions and management were developed, the planning team developed management prescriptions (management zones) that would apply – although differently – to each of the action alternatives. For example, we know we would want an area set aside for NPS offices and housing, and another where water-based recreation could occur, another where visitors could get information about the site and decide what they wanted to do. Thus seven management prescriptions came into being for the memorial — operations, visitor services, land-use recreation, water recreation, interpretation, contemplation, and conservation. Each management prescription has a particular combination of visitor experience, resource conditions, and facilities and activities that would take place in that particular area.

Each alternative concept requires a different application or configuration of these management prescriptions. In other words, the location of a visitor center or NPS housing might be different in one alternative than another alternative, depending on each alternative's overall concept. Next, the configuration of management prescriptions for each alternative was placed on a map, resulting in the action alternative maps.

When drawing boundaries for management prescriptions in the action alternatives, we considered known resource conditions. For example, we have done our best to avoid directing new uses into areas that contain traditional cultural properties (properties that are important in the history of a cultural group and are a part of that group's traditional beliefs and practices) or areas with sensitive natural resources.

The Development of the Alternatives and Public Input

With the management prescriptions for each alternative defined, the next step in the process adding more detail to each alternative. Comments from the public scoping meetings held during the summer, along with input from the memorial's management and staff were all considered in developing the alternatives.

Some of the public comments received reached beyond the scope of a general management plan, suggesting specific solutions to problems. These are valuable ideas, and we will refer to them again when we reach future planning stages. For example, specific interpretive needs would be detailed in a comprehensive interpretive plan.

Other comments revolved around things that we must do regardless of planning initiatives. Because much of basic memorial management is specified in laws, policy, and mandates, issues that fall into this category will not be addressed in the alternatives. We strive to meet these mandates regardless of the alternatives that are developed.

The remaining comments related primarily to visitor use, interpretation, and education. Taken together, the comments and issues have been organized into three major decisions that the general management plan needs to make, while remaining consistent with the memorial's purpose and significance.

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN!

What we are presenting for your comments on in this newsletter is the preliminary purpose and significance statements, interpretive themes, management prescriptions, and management alternatives.

How to Evaluate the Alternatives

Four draft alternatives follow. An existing conditions alternative and three action alternatives are described as well as the management prescriptions for the memorial. The existing conditions alternative will enable you to compare the effects of the action alternatives to a continuation of the status quo. To fully understand each alternative, please refer to the full management prescriptions descriptions in the following table.

The Approved Plan Becomes Real

Implementation of any approved alternative depends on funding. A general management plan provides analysis and justification for future funding, but in no way guarantees that money will be forthcoming. The plan will establish a vision that will guide year-to-year management of the memorial. Full implementation of the approved plan could take many years.



Table 1. Arkansas Post National Memorial Management Prescriptions

Visitor Services
<p style="text-align: center;">Visitor Experience</p> <p>The visitor experience in this area would be highly social and focused on education, orientation, visitor comfort, and safety. This structured environment would be highly accessible, and contacts with memorial staff and other visitors would be common; overcrowding would be avoided. Visitors would get an overview of memorial resources in a short time with a minimum of physical exertion. The interpretation of themes would be an important element. Memorial resources could be seen from a distance. Visitors would have an opportunity to purchase materials related to the memorial.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Resource Conditions</p> <p>To the greatest degree practical in this area, facilities would be models of best management practices and sustainable development. The area would be located where there are limited or no significant resources or in areas that were previously disturbed by development. The natural environment could be modified for memorial operations, but it would still harmonize with the surrounding environment. Although the environment could be highly modified within the area, pollutants and other disturbances (e.g., storm-water runoff and dust from construction) would be contained and mitigated before affecting adjoining areas. The physical footprint of structures and stored material in this area would be minimized. Nonnative plants might be used sparingly if at all in this area. Archeological resources would be avoided or salvaged if necessary.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Facilities and Activities</p> <p>Sightseeing, learning about the memorial through media and tours, short walks, and interpretive programs could be common activities. Also, the area would serve as a staging area for more extended tours. Orientation and interpretation facilities such as a visitor center, kiosk, wayside exhibits, and other interpretive media would be appropriate. Support facilities such as restrooms and first-aid areas and hardened circulation areas and trails could be present. Space could be available for research, classroom activities, and libraries. Utilities would include water, electricity, telephones, and computer access.</p>
Operations
<p style="text-align: center;">Visitor Experience</p> <p>This area is not intended for visitors; however, limited incidental visitor use would be permitted. Most visitors would be only slightly aware of the facilities in this area during their visits.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Resource Conditions</p> <p>To the greatest degree practical, facilities in this area would be models of best management practices and sustainable development. The area would be located where there are limited or no significant resources or in areas that were previously disturbed by development. The natural environment could be modified for memorial operations, but it would still harmonize with the surrounding environment. These areas would not be near sensitive natural or cultural resources. Nonnative plant species might be used sparingly in the area, within NPS policies. Although the environment could be highly modified in this area, pollutants and other disturbances (e.g., storm-water runoff and dust from construction) would be contained and mitigated before affecting adjoining areas. Facilities and operations in the area would be buffered to avoid visitors seeing them or being disturbed by associated noise. The physical footprint of structures and stored material in this area would be minimized. Archeological resources would be avoided or salvaged if necessary.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Facilities and Activities</p> <p>The area could include structures and grounds used for administration and operations, such as offices, maintenance shops, storage areas, warehouses, garages, research facilities, conference/meeting/ training facilities, housing, boat and equipment storage, vehicle maintenance, and outdoor storage. Facilities for memorial utilities and communication needs would be located in this area. Facilities would provide a safe, efficient, comfortable, and aesthetic work environment for memorial staff with intensive maintenance. Hardened circulation and parking areas would be appropriate in this area. Housing would have sufficient space for family activities.</p>

Land Use Recreation

Visitor Experience

Visitors would enjoy a high degree of freedom to pursue their desired recreational experiences. Social and group activities would result in a high degree of contact with other visitors. Visitors would have occasional contact with memorial staff operating fee stations, conducting patrols, and doing other work assignments. Visitors would have safe, accessible, enjoyable, and physical experiences that have a very high probability of meeting their expectations. Visitors would have little opportunity to experience primitive or wild conditions.

Resource Conditions

Recreation would take place where there would be minimal impacts on resources. Resource manipulation would vary by the amount and intensity of physical development necessary for particular types of recreation. Some recreation would cause incidental damage to natural resources; other recreational activities, like fishing, would consume natural resources within the constraints of applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Facilities and Activities

Facilities could support a wide variety of social activities including camping, picnicking, family reunions, festivals, special events, organized games and sports, and other group activities. Facilities would include picnic tables and grills, campsites, accessible restrooms, open spaces for games and sports, paved roads and parking, drinking fountains, and a fee collection station. Visitors would participate in activities such as watching wildlife, fishing, hiking, walking, jogging, and bicycling. Facilities to support these activities could include wildlife viewing blinds, hiking trails, jogging paths, sidewalks, and bicycling trails.

Water Recreation

Visitor Experience

Visitors would have maximum freedom to experience their desired form of recreation. They would encounter a moderate number of other visitors and have contact with memorial staff on an occasional basis. Most experiences would depend upon the use of private watercraft.

Resource Conditions

Water resources would remain in their current state of integrity.

Facilities and Activities

Facilities could include boat launch ramps, channels from shore to deep water, wildlife viewing platforms, buoys to mark channels and memorial boundaries, signs with safety and regulation information, and a fee collection station. Park rangers on shore and on boat patrols could enforce regulations, promote safety, answer visitor questions, provide emergency services, collect fees, and inspect licenses. Special events could take place throughout the year, including fishing contests and bird counts.



Contemplative

Visitor Experience

The primary experience in these areas would involve reflection on the history and significance of Arkansas Post National Memorial. Although adjacent to higher use areas, these places would allow a high degree of solitude. Encounters with memorial staff would be low, and encounters with other visitors would be moderate to low depending on the time of day and season.

Resource Conditions

Vegetation within this prescription would be managed to provide for seclusion, access, or better vistas. Both cultural and natural resources within these areas would receive a high degree of protection.

Facilities and Activities

These areas would be easily accessible. Facilities could include minimal trails with benches and shade and a minimal number of signs.

Interpretive

Visitor Experience

The primary experience would involve learning about the significant memorial resources. These experiences would be easily accessible and could be either self-guided or park ranger led. Personal experiences with resources would be offered where possible without unacceptable resource impacts. Structure and direction would be provided, (i.e., trails, interpretive media, and signs), but some opportunities for discovery would remain. At certain times of the day or season, there could be opportunities for solitude. In general there would be a high probability of encountering other visitors. Encounters with memorial staff would be frequent.

Resource Conditions

Visitor sites and trails would be intensively managed to ensure resource protection and public safety. Areas would be managed to provide the best and most appropriate interpretation of the resource. Areas could vary from a mowed lawn to a predominately natural setting. Resources could be modified for essential visitor services, but they would be changed in a way that harmonizes with the natural and cultural environment.

Facilities and Activities

Trails, overlooks, wayside exhibits, self-guided activities and other interpretive media could be appropriate. Predominate activities could include hiking, seeing the resources, and attending interpretive walks and talks.

Conservation

Visitor Experience

Although visitors could enter this area, access would not be easy due to vegetative growth. They would have an independent discovery experience. There would be a very low probability of encounters with other visitors or staff and little to no evidence of visitor impacts.

Resource Conditions

These areas would be managed to provide the most natural appearing landscape of all the areas. Resource management techniques such as prescribed fire could be used to promote the natural system. Cultural resources within these areas would be conserved for future studies.

Facilities and Activities

There would be no visitor facilities or guided activities within these areas. Scientific research and traditional American Indian ceremonies could take place.

THE ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

Alternative A — Existing Conditions / No Action

This alternative is presented mostly for comparison with the action alternatives B, C, and D. This alternative would continue with the current management direction, and there would be no significant change in interpretation and the management of the memorial. Coordination would continue with agencies and other groups. There would be very little change or improvement of visitor facilities on the site. Acquisition of the Osotouy Unit would continue, but only minimal actions would take place to provide for visitor safety and protection of the site.

Cultural resources would be managed as funding allowed. The memorial would continue to protect and maintain known archeological sites. Natural resources would be managed as time and funding allowed. Cultural and natural resource inventory work and monitoring would continue and be expanded if possible. Memorial staff would encourage the research that is needed to fill in the gaps.

Alternative B — Maximize the Protection of Cultural and Natural Resources While Providing for Visitor Access and Understanding of Their Significance

This alternative would strongly emphasize the need to preserve for future generations the cultural and natural resources of the memorial. This management philosophy would result in minimizing intrusive features on the memorial's landscape (i.e. modern structures and formal paved trails).

The visitor center would be expanded and rehabilitated to provide more interpretation of the memorial's natural and cultural resources. It would remain, however, in its current location. The area would be managed following the "visitor services" prescription. Most of the memorial's administrative functions at the visitor center would be moved to a new facility to be built in the maintenance and housing area.

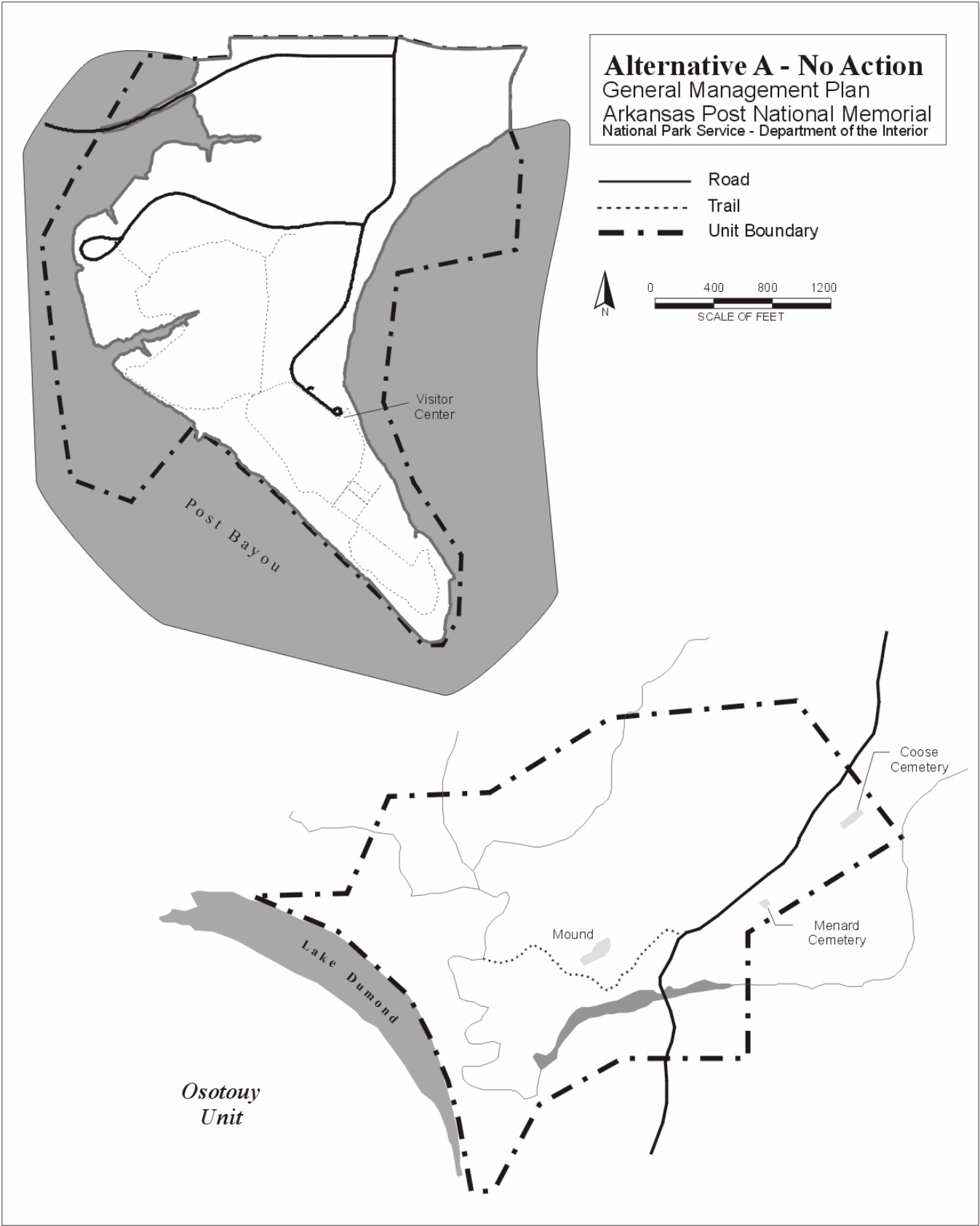
Many of the trails and roads in the memorial would be removed and restored to natural contours and vegetation to provide for larger areas of unbroken

habitat for wildlife. These areas would be managed following the "conservation" prescription. The cultural and natural resources in these areas would be protected and conserved for future scientific study. Visitors would be permitted in these areas where they would have an independent discovery experience. There would be a low probability of encountering other visitors or memorial staff.

Trails would be retained from the visitor center to Front Street with management following the "interpretive" prescription. Interpretation of the memorial's history would focus in this area. Trails below that point would be removed and restored to natural contours and vegetation. In the area between the visitor center and the town site, an area would be developed for contemplation — perhaps of the historical significance of Arkansas Post. Also, the area near the Fort Hindman wayside exhibit would be managed as a "contemplation" management prescription. The current picnic area would be retained along with road access, but all trails in the area would be removed. The picnic area would be managed for limited "land use recreation."

To provide for more efficient operations, a boat dock could be developed for use in monitoring natural resources in the waters around the memorial. The National Park Service would explore the option of reestablishing memorial boundaries that would be more consistent with the original legislation. This action would provide interpretation and resource protection to memorial resources that are outside of the memorial boundaries in the areas of the original memorial.

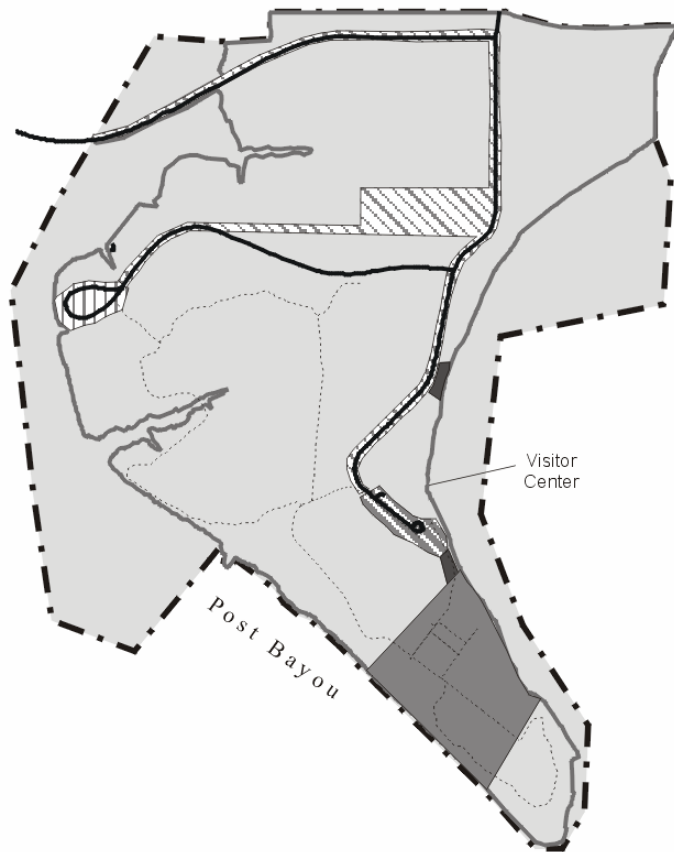
In the Osotouy Unit, a small visitor contact station and parking area would be developed in an area that is now an agricultural field, managed in the "visitor services" prescription. Also a facility for memorial operations would be developed in the same area. This facility would contain a small maintenance area along with housing for a park ranger. The park ranger would provide site security and interpretation and do some preservation work. An interpretive trail would be developed from the visitor contact station to the mounds and back. The trail would have limited impact on the resources. Most of the unit would be managed in the "conservation" prescription for future scientific study and to preserve the natural and cultural resources. The Osotouy Unit boundaries would be expanded when the precise location of the first Arkansas Post



Alternative B

General Management Plan

Arkansas Post National Memorial
National Park Service - Department of the Interior



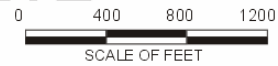
Management Prescriptions

-  Conservation
-  Interpretation
-  Contemplative
-  Land Use Recreation
-  Water Recreation
-  Operations
-  Visitor Services

Road

Trail

Unit Boundary



*Osotouy
Unit*

is determined. This location appears to require the simple exchange of federally owned lands. If this would require more than a minor boundary adjustment, additional legislation would be required.

The memorial would seek partners to protect resources associated with Arkansas Post National Memorial outside its boundaries, such as earlier locations of the Arkansas Post. Partnerships in this alternative would provide resource protection and only minimal interpretation of these resources.

Alternative C — Continue Existing Recreational Opportunities While Ensuring Protection, Perpetuation, and Understanding of the Memorial's Resources

This alternative would seek to develop new ways for the public to gain an appreciation and understanding of the memorial's natural and cultural resources. This would emphasize educational and interpretation goals through multiple-use of the memorial's resources.

The visitor center would be expanded and rehabilitated to better highlight the memorial's cultural, natural, and recreational resources. The visitor center and area immediately surrounding it would be managed as a "visitor services" area. Most of the memorial's administrative function would move to a new facility in the current maintenance and housing area. The new facility would include an area that would be open to the public for researching the memorial's natural and cultural resources. The maintenance area would be managed as an "operations" area.

The memorial's trail and road system would be retained. The picnic area would be retained and slightly expanded to provide more parking; it would be managed for "land use recreation." In addition, designated fishing areas would be developed on the memorial's east side below the maintenance area, at the point of the memorial, and around the memorial's lake. Areas on the south side of the visitor center and the north side of the lake would provide an opportunity for contemplation — perhaps of the memorial's significance and history.

In the Osotouy Unit, a small visitor contact station and parking area would be developed in a location that is now an agricultural field and would be managed following the "visitor services" prescription. Also a facility for operations would be

developed in the same area, managed following the "operations" prescription. This facility would contain a small maintenance area along with housing for a park ranger. The park ranger would provide for site security as well as for interpretation and do some preservation work. A trail for interpretive and recreational purposes would be developed from the visitor contact station to the mounds. It would continue to Lake Dumond. The trail would have limited impact on the resources. An area along Lake Dumond would be developed as a designated fishing area. The bulk of the unit would be left undeveloped and managed as a "conservation" area to preserve the natural and cultural resources.

The memorial would explore possibilities, by partnership or other means, to provide recreational amenities that are not available within the memorial boundaries. As an example, the memorial would explore alternatives with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for reopening the facilities at Moore's Bayou to provide for camping.

Alternative D — Maximize Understanding of Cultural Diversity and Interaction While Ensuring Historic Integrity, Protection of Resources, Recreational Opportunities, and Visitor Enjoyment

This alternative would give emphasis to the rich cultural heritage that flourished over the centuries in the area of Arkansas Post National Memorial. It would provide for new and innovative ways to celebrate the area's cultural diversity while maintaining to a high degree the memorial's natural and cultural resources.

The visitor center would be expanded and rehabilitated to better highlight the memorial's cultural and natural resources. The visitor center and the area around it would follow the "visitor services" prescription. A staging area would be developed as a place for groups to assemble for a water and/or land shuttle to the Osotouy unit. This staging area would be covered to provide for protection from sun and rain. The feasibility of establishing an interpretive center at the memorial would be explored. The purpose of this center would be to recognize and celebrate the memorial's cultural heritage.

Most of the memorial's administrative function would be moved to a new facility in the current maintenance and housing area; this area would




Alternative C

General Management Plan

Arkansas Post National Memorial
National Park Service - Department of the Interior

Management Prescriptions

-  Conservation
-  Interpretation
-  Contemplative
-  Land Use Recreation
-  Water Recreation
-  Operations
-  Visitor Services

-  Road
-  Trail
-  Unit Boundary



0 400 800 1200
SCALE OF FEET






Alternative D

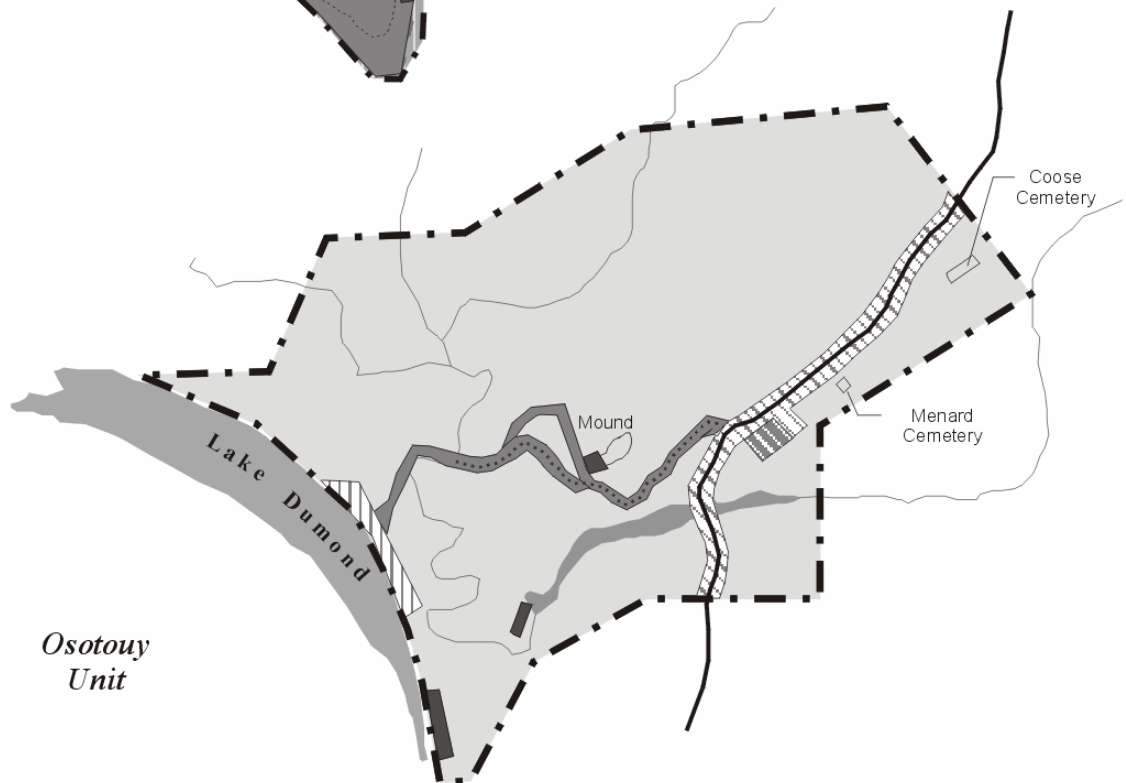
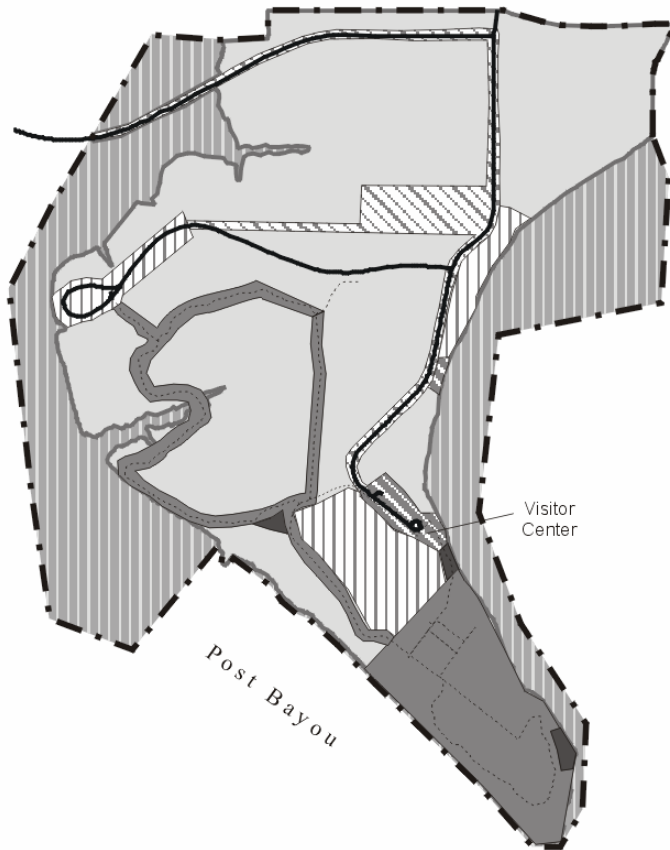
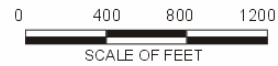
General Management Plan

Arkansas Post National Memorial
National Park Service - Department of the Interior

Management Prescriptions

-  Conservation
-  Interpretation
-  Contemplative
-  Land Use Recreation
-  Water Recreation
-  Operations
-  Visitor Services

-  Road
-  Trail
-  Unit Boundary



follow the “operations” prescription. An amphitheater for public programs would be constructed near the picnic area, allowing for such activities as festivals that provide programs and food representative of a particular culture. The picnic area would be retained. An informal overflow parking area would be developed for special events. All of this area would be managed as “land use recreation.”

The memorial’s trail and road system would be retained. A new trail for interpretation of resources associated with the Civil War battle would be developed. Areas designed for contemplation — perhaps of the memorial’s significance and history — would be on the south side of the visitor center, near the Arkansas River overlook, on the north side of the lake, and in an area on the memorial’s Post Bayou side.

In the Osotouy Unit, a small visitor contact station and parking area would be developed in an area that is now an agricultural field. This area would be managed under the “visitor services” prescription. The area would contain a staging area for group tours that provide protections from the elements and a small picnic area proportional to the area’s visitation. A facility for memorial operations would be developed in the same area. This facility would contain a small maintenance area along with housing for a park ranger. This facility and the area around it would follow the “operations” prescription. The park ranger would provide for site security and interpretation and do some preservation work. An interpretive trail would be developed from the visitor contact station to the mounds and continue to Lake Dumond and along the lake looping back to the area of the mounds. The trail would have limited impact on the resources. Areas for contemplation would be developed at the Coose Cemetery, Menard Cemetery, near the main mounds, along Lake Dumond, and along the trail to the lake.

The memorial would seek partners to protect resources associated with Arkansas Post National Memorial that are outside its boundaries, such as earlier locations of the Arkansas Post. Partnerships in this alternative would provide for resource protection and interpretation of the area’s rich heritage. The memorial would seek partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies as well as nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and foreign governments. In addition, the memorial would establish an active outreach program to interpret the area’s different cultures and history.

WHAT IS NEXT?

The next step is to send us your comments on these preliminary alternatives and management prescriptions. You may like some but not all the elements of one alternative or you may like a concept but disagree with the way we have translated that concept into actual visitor experiences or resource protection in the memorial. **We need to know the reasons for your likes and dislikes.** Maybe you have an entirely different vision that would solve major issues better than any of the alternatives presented. This is the kind of feedback that will help us formulate the best possible future for the memorial. We encourage all ideas. Please take your time to fill out the enclosed comment form and return within 30 days. We will consider your comments when we develop a draft general management plan, which will include an analysis of the environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives.

Also, please be aware that due to the requirements of public disclosure (318 *Department Manual* 4 App.2.11), the National Park Service must make the names and addresses of commenters public if requested. Individual respondents, however, may request that this information not be released. The National Park Service will then determine whether the information may be withheld under the Freedom of Information Act; and will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection if requested.

Planning Tasks and Schedule

Step	Date	Progress
Data Gathering and Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Seek out American Indian and public views and concerns, and review and summarize public comments received. ◆ Compile and analysis new information. 	Summer/ Fall 1999	✓
Alternatives Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Refine the purpose and significance statements and interpretive themes. ◆ Identify alternatives for resource preservation, interpretation, and visitor use. 	Fall 1999/ Winter/ Spring 2000	In progress
Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prepare a draft plan and environmental impact statement. ◆ Provide a public review and comment period. ◆ Hold public meetings to receive comments and respond to questions. 	Summer/ Fall 2000	
Final Plan and Environmental Impact Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Revise the draft plan based on public comment. ◆ Transmit final plan and environmental impact statement for approval. 	Winter/ Spring 2001	
Prepare and sign a "Record of Decision" that implements the plan.	Spring 2001	
Implement plan, depending on available funding.	Summer 2001-2016	

National Park Service Planning Team Members

Edward E. Wood, Jr., Superintendent, Arkansas Post National Memorial
 Brian Keith McCutchen, Park Ranger, Arkansas Post National Memorial
 Shane Lind, Park Ranger, Arkansas Post National Memorial
 Kevin Eads, Resource Management Specialist, Arkansas Post National Memorial
 Patricia A. Grove, Administrative Officer, Arkansas Post National Memorial
 Charles Layton Mattmiller, Chief of Maintenance, Arkansas Post National Memorial
 Tom Richter, Interpretation Planner, Midwest Regional Office
 John Paige, Job Captain/Cultural Resource Specialist, Denver Service Center
 Greg Jarvis, Natural Resource Planner and Compliance Specialist, Denver Service Center

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ARKANSAS POST NATIONAL MEMORIAL
1741 OLD POST ROAD
GILLET, AR 72055

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PERMIT NO. G-83

